

**Minutes
Clean Energy Development Board
Special Meeting - July 12, 2021**

In Attendance (*Meeting held at electronically via video and phone*)

<u>Board Members:</u>	Attending	Absent
Kate Desrochers (KD)	X	
Jared Duval (JD) <i>Co-Chair</i>	X	
David Farnsworth (DF)	X	
Ken Jones (KJ)	X	
Sam Swanson (SS) <i>Co-Chair</i>	X	
Johanna Miller (JM)	X	
Paul Zabriskie (PZ)	X	

State Employees:

Andrew Perchlik (**AP**), Fund Manager, Clean Energy Development Fund, Public Service Department (PSD)

Ed McNamara, Director of the Planning Division, PSD (attended the second half of the meeting).

Members of the Public: Bekah Kuster, Vermont Natural Resources Council.

The meeting started at 3:33 with **JD** presiding.

I. Agenda

The draft agenda was reviewed and discussed briefly. Without any changes recommended the agenda was approved.

II. Public Comment Period

Ms. Kuster had no comments.

III. Minutes

JM moved to accept the draft minutes of the Board's 07/02/21 quarterly meeting as presented by the PSD. The motion was seconded by **PZ** and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Draft Plan for the Affordable Community-Scale Renewable Energy Program

AP gave an overview of the new draft request for information (RFI) the PSD prepared for the Community-Scale Renewable Energy Program based on the discussion at the Board's last meeting (7/2/21) and internal discussions at the PSD. He explained what changes were made and what decisions were made regarding the PSD's Straw Proposal within the RFI.

Board members commented on, questioned, and discussed the draft RFI. **SS**, as well as several other Board members had concerns that the Straw Proposal allowed the sale of any renewable energy credits (RECs) generated by projects in the Program. Members expressing these concerns wanted the question in the RFI to be more clearly written to express the issue of the environmental

issues regarding selling the RECs. There was agreement that the question should be changed to emphasize the issue and that when/if the Program issued an RFP for projects the treatment of RECs needed to be described in each proposal. **AP** made changes to the question to include language about the trade-offs between costs and environmental benefits regarding RECs. He read the new question aloud and it was met with general agreement as an improvement.

There were also discussions on geographical equity/distribution of the potential participants and projects, potential grid benefits, and economic development opportunities that might come with the Program projects and how the Program might prioritize these issues.

V. Plan for \$5 million ARPA Funds to be Allocated by the Board

AP reported that he has started to draft an outline of how the \$5 million could be allocated and design a process for the Board to come to a decision on the allocation of the \$5 million. **AP** said he was starting with the assumption that the CEDF would continue with its strategic focus on the thermal advanced wood heating sector, while also following the eligibility requirements of the ARPA funds.

Board members discussed options for how to proceed. **KJ** supported the focus on advanced wood heating and thought the CEDF should continue to develop solutions to the GHG emissions of wood heating. **SS** suggested that the CEDF send out a request for comments before developing a draft proposal to solicit new and divergent ideas for the funds. **JD** expressed his opinion that the CEDF should look at total energy, as it has, and invest in technologies and markets with the best returns for the dollars invested. He suggested that biodiesel should get a new look as it could be an economical and equitable way to lower fossil fuel usage for space heating.

There was a discussion on identifying the gaps, barriers, and opportunities in the advanced wood and renewable thermal market. Members wanted to participate in a meeting of the businesses and organizations working in the Vermont advanced wood market. **AP** said he was working on organizing a meeting of these stakeholders and would work to schedule it so that Board members could also attend. It was pointed out that if a quorum of Board members were present it would be a public meeting of the Board. Board members preferred the week of July 26 for this meeting with the advanced wood heating stakeholders.

--Without objection **JD** adjourned the meeting at 5:01